

Distribution of 9-8 was the most frequent (50%) at anaphase I (figure 3) followed by 9-1-7 (12.5%), 7-2-8 (12%), 9-2-6 (10%), (Figure. 4), 8-1-8 (7.5%) and 6-11 (7.5%) in descending order of magnitude (table 1). This plant could not be maintained further due to complete absence of seed set observed in this case. Though Gill *et al*<sup>1</sup> have reported the maximum limits of tolerance of three extra chromosomes (triple trisomic) in pearl millet, the presence of one tetra-trisomic plant in this study suggests that plants with 4 doses of one chromosome (tetrasomic) in addition to trisomic condition of other member of the set can also be viable in pearl millet.

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#### A NEW FRUIT ROT OF POMEGRANATE CAUSED BY *ASPERGILLUS VARIECOLOR*

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A fruit rot of Pomegranate (*Punica granatum* L.) was observed during rainy season in local fruit shops. The disease was not commonly present but wherever it

occurred, the extent of rotting ranged from 15-25 per cent, at times, the whole consignment was rendered unfit for consumption.

Isolation revealed the presence of *Aspergillus varicolor* (Berkeley & Broome) Thom and Raper as causative agent for the disease under study. The disease is characterised by softening of rind and underlying pulp. The affected rind initially turns brown and then blackish brown at advanced stage of infection. The fruits neither shrivel nor loose their shape until they are pressed.

The pathogenicity of *A. varicolor* was established by artificial inoculation on surface sterilized healthy pomegranate fruits, following pin pricks. Typical rot symptoms developed within a week. Control fruits remained healthy throughout.

Several Aspergilli viz., *A. awamori*, *A. fumigatus*, *A. flavus*, *A. niger*, *A. niveus*, *A. versicolor* and *Drechslera rostrata* have been reported earlier to cause fruit rot of *Punica granatum* L.<sup>1-4</sup> but the disease caused by *A. varicolor* has not been reported so far.

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